

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Lutherville Elementary School Inventory Number: BA-3181  
Address: 1700 N. York Road (MD 45) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Lutherville Zip Code: 21093 County: Baltimore County  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Towson  
Property Owner: Board of Education of Baltimore County Tax Account ID Number: 08-1600013409  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 60 Tax Map Number: 212  
Project: MD 45: Cavan Drive to Ridgely Road Agency: State Highway Administration  
Agency Prepared By: State Highway Administration  
Preparer's Name: Melissa Hess Date Prepared: 04/08/2005

Documentation is presented in: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*

Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Built in 1951, the Lutherville Elementary school is a common example of mid-twentieth-century suburban public school construction.

In the period following World War II, Maryland's public education system experienced massive growth and expansion. The war had brought increased industrial development and influx of new residents to the state. A resultant major building boom and increased birth-rate caused a particularly acute problem for education. School boards across the state struggled to expand fast enough to accommodate the growing number of students (Callcott 1985, 237).

Baltimore County felt the effects of the bulging school population, particularly in those areas that surrounded Baltimore City, as dense suburban development replaced the former agricultural landscape. In June of 1950, the Baltimore County Public Schools reported that "Today, Baltimore County is in the midst of an emergency school construction program to care for a rapidly increasing public school population that has gained 10,000 pupils in the past seven years" (Baltimore County Public Schools, 1950). Three years later, the county's public school population had been increased by more than 12,000 pupils. School board officials attributed the substantial school population growth to the three interrelated factors of residents, homes, and births

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

*Jim Tanenbaum*  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

*Blum*  
Reviewer, National Register Program

6/21/05  
Date

6/22/05  
Date

200506515/200501099

(Baltimore County Public Schools, 1953).

Between 1946 and 1954, 67 new public schools or additions were either completed, underway, or in planning in Baltimore County. This list included Lutherville Elementary School, original built in 1951 for a capacity of 420 students. By April 1954, the school was slated to double in size to accommodate an additional 420 students. A month later, Brown vs. the Board of Education mandated the desegregation of the nation's schools, however, it is unlikely that the expansion of Lutherville Elementary had any direct association with desegregation efforts, as the county did not take any significant strides to desegregate until the 1960s.

With the "emergency" expansion program, speed and low-cost became the predominant factors in the design, materials, and methods of construction for public schools. The average time to build a new school in Baltimore County was three and a quarter years, with one year to acquire a school site, one year for preparing plans, and one and a quarter years for construction (Baltimore County Public Schools 1954). As with other public buildings of the era, school designers chose an aesthetic that they believed emphasized modernity and technological advancement. School design of this era had more in common with factories than with one-room rural schools or any other historic prototype.

The Lutherville Elementary School sets along the west side of York Road near the Ridgely Road intersection in an area dominated by late twentieth-century commercial development. The school's grounds contain playground areas and a few athletic fields, as well as a large, paved parking lot in front of the building. There are several pre-fabricated modular classrooms located behind the school. The overall design reflects the mass-produced, non-decorative aesthetic associated with Modern architecture. Like numerous 1950s suburban schools across the country, Lutherville Elementary is characterized by its low, utilitarian, flat-roofed form, with bands of metal casement windows, and subtle Modernist styling. The main entrance wing is the original 1951 portion of the school. The post-1954 addition continues to the southwest of the original building. The addition closely approximates the overall size, design, massing, scale, and materials so that it appears to have been constructed at the same time. The plan of the building is a rambling, asymmetrical arrangement of one-story wings, positioned with the long elevation facing the street. The wings have flat roofs, brick veneer covered walls, long bands of metal windows, metal doors, and the occasional concrete element. The workmanship reflects the preference for speedy construction methods that marked this period of suburban development. While the property itself maintains the feeling of a 1950s public elementary school, the late twentieth-century commercial development that dominates the surrounding area diminishes its association with mid-twentieth century suburban growth.

Though the Lutherville Elementary School is generally associated with trends in mid-twentieth century suburban public education, the school is not associated with any specific events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and is not eligible under Criterion A. The school is not eligible under Criterion B for an association with persons significant in our past. The school is not eligible under Criterion C for its design or construction. While the building as a whole has not undergone substantial alterations, it is non-distinct example of a ubiquitous property type. It does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic values. The integrity of the school is diminished by surrounding commercial development. Due to prior disturbance, the property is not likely to yield information important in prehistory or history and is not eligible under Criterion D.

#### References

Baltimore County Public Schools. Baltimore County Looks Ahead in Education, A Projected Program. June 1950.

Baltimore County Public Schools. A Brief Look Backward and Ahead at Baltimore County's Bulging School Population. October 1953.

Baltimore County Public Schools. A School System Grows. April 1954.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Callcott, George H. Maryland and America 1940 to 1980. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

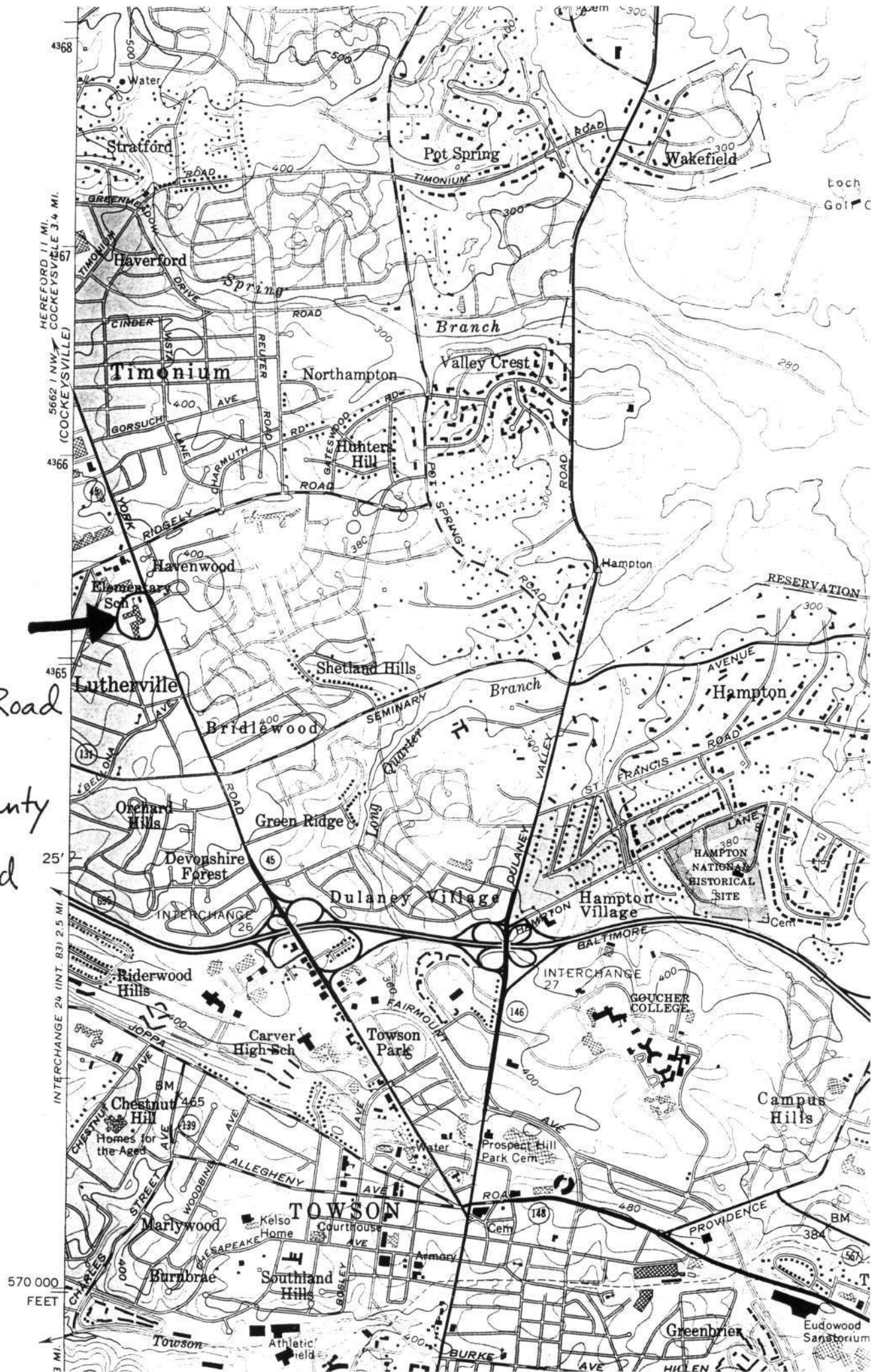
Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

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MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

BA - 3181  
Lutherville  
Elementary  
School  
1700 York Road  
Lutherville  
Baltimore County  
Towson Quad







LUTHERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One of Baltimore's  
Best Elementary Schools

BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road

Baltimore County

M. Hess

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 6 >007  
503 1717 -1 N N-3-85 (044)0

MD SHPO

Front Entrance, East elevation, Facing NW

BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road  
Baltimore County  
M. Hess

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 7 >000  
503 1717 -1 N N-4-27 <044>3

MD SHPO

Front entrance, East Elevation, Facing W



LUTHERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

City of Baltimore  
Public Schools





BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road  
Baltimore County  
M. Hess

ART-2611 <No. 8 >009  
503 1717 -1 N N-3-75 (044)@

March 2005

MD SHPO

North Elevation, facing SE



BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School

1700 N. York Road

Baltimore County

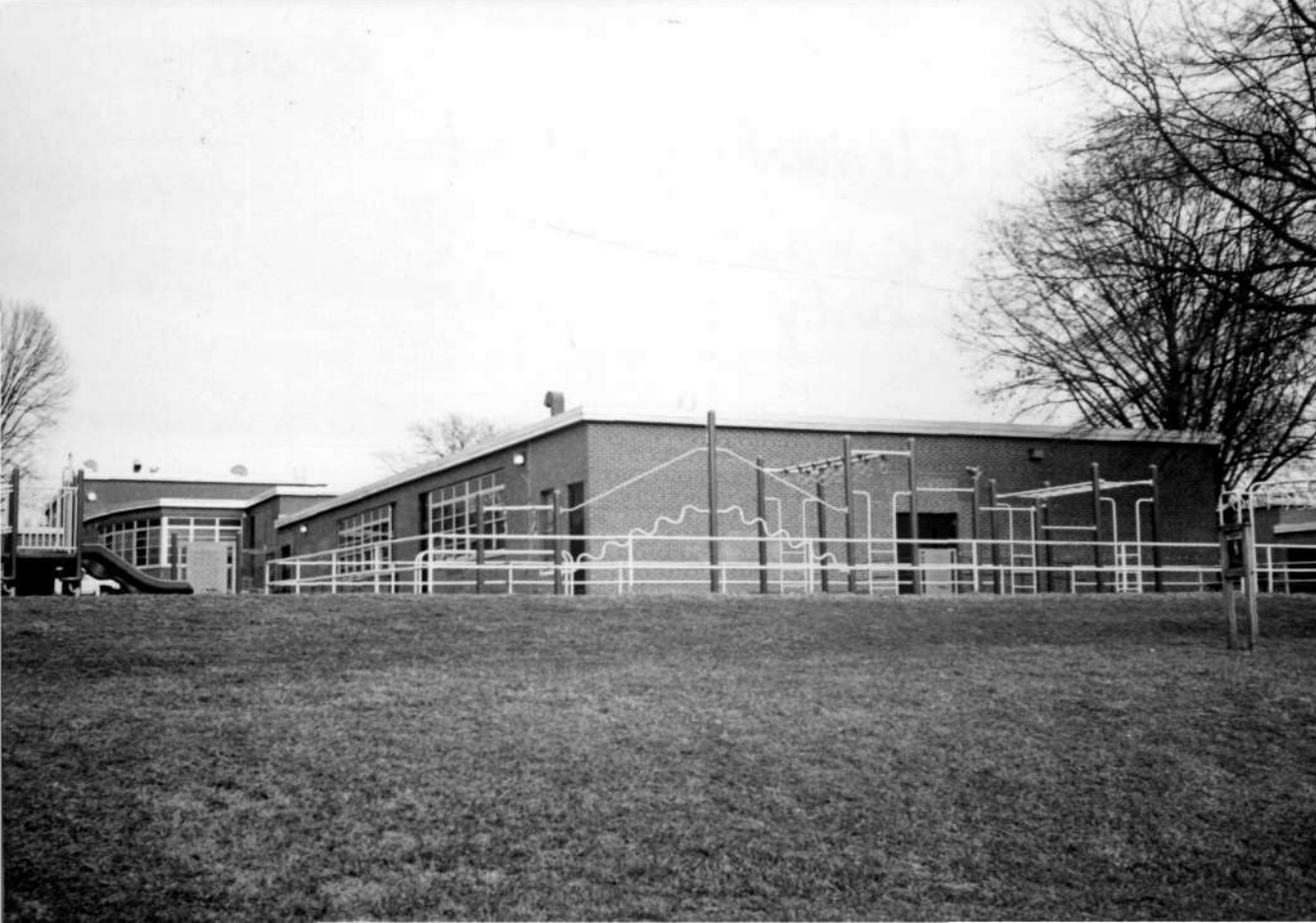
M. Hess

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 10 >011  
503 1717 -1 N N-6-04 (044)0

MD SHPO

North elevation, Facing SE



BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School

1700 N. York Road

Baltimore Cnty

M. Hess

March 2005

APR-25-11 <NO-11 >012

503 1717 -1 N N-7-20 <044>0

MD SHPO

North and West Elevations, Facing E





BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road  
Baltimore Cnty

M. Hess

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 13 >014  
503 1717 -1 N N-7 05 <044>0

MD SHPO

West Elevation, Facing E



BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road  
Baltimore County  
M. Hess

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 15 >016  
503 1717 -1 N N-6-30 <044>0

MD SHPO

West Elevation, Facing SE



BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road

Baltimore County

M. Hess

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 17 >018  
503 1717 -1 N N-6-04 (044)0

MD SHPO

West side of the Building showing Modular Classroom,  
Facing N





BA - 3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road

Baltimore County

M. Hess

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 12 >013  
503 1717 -1 N N-7 30 (044)0

MD SHPO

School Grounds, Facing SE



BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School

1700 N. York Road

Baltimore County

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March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 19 >020  
503 1717 -1 N N-6-01 <044>0

MD SHPO

South Elevation, Facing N



BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road  
Baltimore County  
M. Hess  
March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 23 >024  
503 1717 -1 N N-7-27 (044)0

MD SHPO

East Elevation, Showing Auditorium, Facing NE





PLANT



BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road  
Baltimore County  
M. HESS  
March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 4 >005  
503 1717 -1 N N-4-59 (044)0

MD SHPO

Front Parking lot, Facing S



the Beans.

the Beans.  
Riding School

Lark/Tim, Inc. (owner)  
**Flea Market  
& Crafts**  
Every Sunday  
10-3

BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School

1700 N York Road

Baltimore County

M. Hess

March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 1>002  
503 1717 -1 N N-4-34 <044>0

MD SHPO

Front Lawn, Facing S - Southbound York Rd



BA-3181

Lutherville Elementary School  
1700 N. York Road  
Baltimore County  
M. Hess  
March 2005

ART-2611 <No. 5 >006  
503 1717 -1 N N-4-37 (044)0

MD SHPO

Flag Pole, Facing E